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LIMEHURST
Rural District Council

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**MEDICAL
OFFICER'S
REPORT, 1938**

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ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE :
Harry Williams, The Mitre Press, St. Michael's Square
— 13125 —



**Rural District
of
LIMEHURST**

**REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the
Year 1938.**

AREA, POPULATION, AND RATEABLE VALUE

PARISH	AREA IN ACRES	No. of Inhabited Houses	Rateable value £	Product Id. Rate £
Alt	1,132·724	272	3,146	12
Bardsley	883·076	563	7,189	26
Littlemoss.....	703·802	210	2,926	11
Waterloo	341·139	1,234	14,846	57
Woodhouses...	627·545	234	2,232	9
Totals ...	3,688·286	2,513	30,339	115

Population for 1931 Census (excluding Hartshead)..... 8151
Population for 1938 (Estimated for purposes of Birth
Rate and Death Rate) 7893

VITAL STATISTICS.

		TOTAL	M.	F.	
Live Births	{	Legitimate	81	40	41
		Illegitimate	1	Nil	1
		Total	<u>82</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>42</u>
Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population.....					10·3
Still Births		4	2	2	
Rate per 1000 Total Births					46
(live and still births)					
Deaths		93	46	47	
Crude Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population					11·7
Deaths from Puerperal causes		Death rate per 1000			
		Deaths	total (live and still) Births		
Puerperal Sepsis Nil			Nil		
Other Puerperal causes Nil			Nil		
Total		Nil	Nil		
Death rate of Infants under one year of age :—					
All Infants per 1000 live births					134
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births					135
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births					Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)					10
„	„	Measles (all ages)			Nil
„	„	Whooping Cough (all ages).....			Nil
„	„	Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)			1

<u>Population, 7,893</u>	Per 1000 of Estimated Population				Maternal Mortality Rate		Rate of Deaths under One Year per 1000 Live Births
	Live Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Death Rate from Cancer	Per 1000 Live Births	Per 1000 Total (Live and Still) Births	
Mean of 5 years 1933-37	11.9	12.5	0.40	2.06	4.03	3.87	58
Year 1937 ...	11.6	12.7	0.24	2.49	10.75	10.20	64
„ 1938	10.3	11.7	0.50	1.26	Nil	Nil	134
Increase or decrease in 1938 on 5 years' average, 1933-37	-1.6	-0.8	+0.10	-0.80	- 4.03	- 3.87	+ 76
Previous Year ...	-1.3	-1.0	+0.26	-1.23	-10.75	-10.20	+ 70

Tuberculosis of the respiratory system caused 4 deaths, two females and two males, which gives a death rate of 0.50 per 1,000, being an increase of 0.26 above 1937.

Diseases of the Zymotic or infectious class caused 10 deaths, an epidemic rate of 1.25 per 1000, last year's rate being 2.25 per 1000.

The following table shows the number of deaths from Zymotic diseases during the year.

Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	0
Smallpox	0
Diphtheria	1
Scarlet Fever	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	0
Pneumonia, all forms	3
Tuberculosis of respiratory system.....	4
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1
Whooping Cough	0
Diarrhoea (under 2 years).....	1
Measles	0
Puerperal Sepsis	0
Other Puerperal diseases.....	0
Influenza	0
	—
	10
	—

TOTAL DEATHS IN THE LIMEHURST R.D. 1938.

Causes of Death		M	F
All Causes		46	47
1.	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers.....	0	0
2.	Measles	0	0
3.	Scarlet Fever	0	0
4.	Whooping Cough	0	0
5.	Diphtheria	1	0
6.	Influenza	0	0
7.	Encephalitis lethargica	0	0
8.	Cerebro-spinal fever	0	0
9.	Tuberculosis of the respiratory system ...	2	2
10.	Other tuberculosis diseases	1	0
11.	Syphilis	0	0
12.	General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	0	0
13.	Cancer, malignant disease	5	5
14.	Diabetes	1	1
15.	Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	1	3
16.	Heart disease	15	15
17.	Aneurysm	0	0
18.	Other circulatory diseases	0	3
19.	Bronchitis	2	2
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)	1	2
21.	Other respiratory diseases	0	0
22.	Peptic Ulcer	0	0
23.	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	0	1
24.	Appendicitis	0	0
25.	Cirrhosis of liver, etc.	0	0
26.	Other diseases of liver, etc.	0	0
27.	Other digestive diseases	2	3
28.	Acute and chronic nephritis	3	1
29.	Puerperal sepsis	0	0
30.	Other puerperal diseases	0	0
31.	Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	5	4
32.	Senility	1	0
33.	Suicide	2	0
34.	Other violence	1	3
35.	Other defined diseases	3	2
36.	Causes ill-defined or unknown	0	0

Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)	M.	F.
Smallpox	0	0
Poliomyelitis	0	0
Polioencephalitis	0	0
Deaths of Infants under one year.....Total	5	6
Legitimate	5	6
Illegitimate	0	0
Live Births Total	40	42
Legitimate	40	41
Illegitimate	0	1
Still Births Total	2	2
Legitimate	2	2
Illegitimate	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS.
New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

YEARS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1								
1—5								
5—10			1				1	
10—15			1					
15—20								
20—25		1			1			
25—35		1	1			1		
35—45		1			1			
45—55	1							
55—65		1				1		
65 and over								
	1	4	3	0	2	2	1	0
	5		3		4		1	

Of the five tuberculosis deaths, four had been notified as tuberculosis before death, and one was notified after death.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1938.
Notified cases only included.

Notifiable Diseases	Total cases at all Ages.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED												Total Deaths (The figures in this column agree with those supplied by the Registrar General).	Hospital.—Total cases removed to Hospital from the District.	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to District.
		YEARS														
		under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 and over			
Smallpox	20	..	..	..	..	1	6	5	2	5	1	..	..	..	8	1
Scarlet Fever	37	..	..	1	1	4	14	10	7	..	..	..	..	..	29	..
Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Primary Pneumonia	9	..	..	3	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	3	1	4	2	1
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
Puerperal Pyrexia		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-Spinal Fever		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Poliomyelitis		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Polio-Encephalitis		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis-Lethargica		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
Totals	72	..	..	4	2	5	21	15	9	6	1	6	3	5	40	2

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1938.

Smallpox	0
Scarlet Fever	20
Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup	37
Enteric Fever	0
Acute Primary Pneu. }	9
Acute Infl. Pneu. }	
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Opthal. Neon	0
Erysipelas	5
Pulm. Tuberculosis	5
Other forms of Tuberculosis	3
Encephalitis Lethargica	0
Dysentery	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0
	—
Total	80
	—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The number of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria cases has again been rather high, particularly in the early part of the year. The diphtheria cases were really a continuation of the outbreak experienced in the latter months of last year. Otherwise no specific outbreaks occurred.

No cases of Typhoid Fever or Cerebro-Spinal Fever were notified.

Disinfection of clothing and bedding is carried out when advisable at the Ashton-under-Lyne steam disinfector by arrangement with the Corporation.

Antitoxin is supplied free for Diphtheria cases, and this is stored at the County Police Station, Waterloo, where it is available day and night on production of a written application from the doctor attending the case.

In November, 1937, the Council passed the following resolution with regard to Diphtheria :—

“That this Council’s Medical Officer of Health is hereby authorized to immunise any of the inhabitants of this area when requested to do so, free of cost, and to

supply upon request, the immunising agent free of cost in cases where it is desired to have immunisation carried out by their own Medical Practitioner."

Immunising prophylactic is now supplied to doctors from the Public Health Department.

NUMBER OF RESIDENTS IMMUNISED DURING YEAR.

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. Pre-school children | 3. Prophylactics used—Toxoid-anti-toxin-Floccules (Suspension) |
| 2. School children... | 13. Prophylactics used—Toxoid-anti-toxin-Floccules (Suspension) |
| 3. Adults... .. | — Prophylactics used Nil. |

Post-Schick tests undertaken—None.

Bacteriological examinations of Swabs are made by arrangement with the Manchester Public Health Laboratory, the Ashton District Infirmary, and the Oldham Royal Infirmary.

No return cases of Scarlet Fever reported.

Upon receipt of notification of an outbreak of Infectious Disease the premises are visited and inspected to ascertain if any sanitary defects exist, and, if so, steps are taken to have the same remedied. Isolation at home as far as practicable is insisted upon in those cases where the patient is not moved into isolation hospital, and disinfectant in liquid and powder form is supplied free during the period of illness. Any ratepayers, upon giving satisfactory reasons, are likewise supplied with disinfectant upon application at the Council Offices.

Library books are either destroyed or disinfected at the house, or the Council Offices.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION AND AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Advantage is taken by residents in the district of facilities afforded them by the Ashton-under-Lyne District Infirmary and Lake Hospital, Ashton-under-Lyne. For Infectious diseases there are the Isolation Hospitals at

Ashton-under-Lyne and Oldham, and Monsall, Manchester, when beds are available, and the Hartshead Joint Hospital for Smallpox.

The Council make an annual payment of £21 to the District Infirmary and also pay an annual subscription of £20 as a retaining fee for the Motor Ambulance of the Ashton-under-Lyne Corporation, and the latter is thereby available for service in the Rural District.

The Ambulance facilities for infectious cases are provided by the Hospital to which the case is sent, no difficulty has been experienced in this respect. The Ambulance arrangements for non-infectious and maternity cases are adequate and satisfactory.

The Council also make a contribution of £3 3s. 0d. per annum to the Manchester Royal Infirmary into which Institution residents of the Limehurst District are admitted from time to time.

Also the Council make an annual contribution to the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital of two guineas.

In December, 1938, a contribution of two guineas was made to the funds of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, Ashton-under-Lyne.

A number of recommendation forms, for admission and for treatment of in and out patients, are issued to the Council both by the Ashton-under-Lyne Infirmary Board and the Manchester Royal Infirmary Board, to be used at discretion.

B—Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

FOOD AND MILK.

No special arrangements are in force for the sampling of Food, samples being taken by the Inspectors of the Lancashire County Council.

The inspection of food otherwise than by sampling is carried out by the Officers of your Council. Details are given under the heading "Slaughterhouses, Meat and Food Inspection." The Sanitary Inspector is a Certified Meat and Food Inspector."

Milk produced in the Limehurst area is subject to sampling by the County Police and Public Health Departments and by Inspectors in the neighbouring boroughs where it is largely retailed, and no similar action has therefore been taken by the District Council direct. A considerable number of milk samples are taken on behalf of the County Council by this Council's Sanitary Inspector. Details are given under the heading "Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops."

WATER SUPPLY.

The large portion of the district is supplied from the Reservoirs of the Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge and Dukinfield Joint Board, and part of the parish of Alt from the Oldham Corporation Reservoirs, the quality of the water in both cases being excellent. Analysis is made at the Public Health Laboratories, Manchester, as and when necessary, for both chemical and bacteriological examination.

By arrangement with the Engineer of the Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge and Dukinfield Joint Water Board (Mr. M. T. B. Whitson, B.Sc., A.M.Inst., C.E.) information concerning any case of typhoid occurring in this district is supplied to him.

The higher or upland portion of the parish of Alt is dependent upon springs and wells, and contamination is very remote.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The river Medlock, a tributary of the river Irwell, flows through the District from north-east to south-west and receives several streams *en route* which are fed by a number of surface springs and outcrops of subsoil water. All the streams are subject to rapid rise of level and volume during rainstorms. The effluent drain from the Bardsley sewage works discharges into the river direct and the corresponding drains at the Waterloo and Newmarket works discharge into a stream which joins the Medlock at Daisy Nook. Canals extend from Bardsley Vale to the Failsworth boundary at Woodhouses, with a branch off at Bardsley Locks leading to Droylsden and beyond. These canals are now in the ownership of the L. & N.E. Railway Company, and are in disuse except for carrying railway company materials.

SEWERAGE.

The built-up areas in the parishes of Waterloo and Bardsley are sewered, and the branch sewers extend to within reasonable distance from all but a few out-lying houses, there being 3 premises in Waterloo and 24 in Bardsley with closets which are too far away or at too low a level for the provision of water closets.

These sewerage systems are of the combined type, but there are also a number of pipes and culverts which convey surface water only from the streets, and from low-lying land, direct into natural brook courses.

During the year a length of approximately 123 lineal yards of new 6" sewer, with 5 manholes was constructed in the Parish of Littlemoss, and at Knott Lanes, Bardsley, an extension of 115 lineal yards of 9" sewer with 2 new manholes was also carried out, both these works being to serve new Council houses.

Parts of 16 premises in Waterloo, and 9 whole premises in Littlemoss, are drained into the sewerage system of the Ashton-under-Lyne Corporation, the cost of the treatment of the sewage being borne by the parishes concerned. The 24 W.C.'s at the Maple Mill No. 2 at Bardsley are drained to the system of the Oldham Corporation and one house situated partly in the Oldham County Borough area is drained to the Bardsley sewers, payment for sewage treatment being made respectively by the two Authorities on an agreed basis.

Part of the parish of Littlemoss has a main drain discharging into a culverted brook-course on the boundary between that parish and the Droylsden U.D., and the drains from a number of houses and from the railway station, including a few W.C.'s, are connected into it, also the effluent drain from the unit treating the sewage from 48 new houses on Lumb Lane.

In the parish of Alt also there is a short length of main drain at the north end of Lees New Road, which was laid by the Estate Trustees who constructed the road, and this discharges into a ditch on land nearby.

In the parish of Woodhouses there are three lengths of main drain, one discharging into septic tanks which are periodically cleansed by the Council men, and the others discharging into a small brook far removed from the houses.

During the year a new connection was made to Marland Fold Sewer for two new houses, a new sewer vent shaft was erected at sewer extremity Newmarket Road, opposite Grove Street and a new conical airtight cover fitted to existing manhole in Ney Street.

The question of the proper sewerage of the parishes of Littlemoss and Woodhouses, with the necessary disposal works for the treatment of the sewage, cannot be put off indefinitely, and the same may be said of part of the parish of Alt. In many respects your District is unique as compared with rural districts in general and no part of the area administered by the Rural District Council is more than a couple of miles or so from a fairly large town.

With the passing of the Local Government Act, 1929, some of the old parochial atmosphere of rural districts has been swept away, and your Council may now resolve, under Section 56 (1) of the Act to assist any approved scheme of sewerage (and water supply) in any one parish, or combination of parishes, out of the General District Rate. In recent Annual Reports I have stated that where any such resolve is made it is reasonable to assume that, if application is made for the same, the County Council will also contribute under Section 57 (1) of the Act, to the extent necessary to prevent the proposed expenditure from becoming a burden to the ratepayers.

It is therefore of interest to record that on the invitation of the Urban District Council of Failsworth your Council attended a joint meeting with the Urban Council at the Town Hall, Failsworth, on the 18th January, 1938, for an informal discussion on the general question of the sewerage of the Parishes of Woodhouses and Littlemoss, and of the disposal of the sewage, along with consideration of the neighbouring Authority's problem of sewage disposal and that, following this meeting, a joint deputation from the two Councils interviewed a Committee of the County Council at the County Offices, Preston, on the 15th March.

After this latter interview the County Council appointed Consulting Engineers to go into the matter and make a preliminary report, embracing a comprehensive main sewerage system for the Rural District as well as secondary schemes dealing with various Parishes. Also as to alternative proposals for the disposal of the sewage from both Districts.

The Consulting Engineers visited your District the following May and in response to their request your Surveyor drew up and forwarded to them a detailed report on conditions and existing features in the several Parishes of the Rural District.

It would appear that the Engineers' report had not been received by the County Council at the end of the year, but it is hoped that when this comes to hand and has been fully considered, it may be possible to embark on a scheme which will eventually provide the whole District with adequate sewerage facilities.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Up to the end of 1937, the Council had three disposal works. Two units on one site serve the parish of Waterloo and the other works is in the parish of Bardsley, alongside the river Medlock.

These works comprise straining grids, detritus tanks, feed channels, continuous flow sedimentation tanks, auxiliary storm-water tanks, dosing tanks, filter beds with automatic rotary distributors and humus tanks. At the Waterloo works sludge from the detritus tanks is mixed with shoddy and disposed of as manure, and sludge from the sedimentation tanks is drained to special sludge tanks where, after settling, the liquid is syphoned off and distributed over auxiliary filter beds of graded furnace clinker before discharge into a water course, and the sludge is pumped out and conveyed by pipes and troughs to sludge-drying lagoons. The dried sludge is ultimately used on the land by the farmers, etc. and where necessary it is now mixed with shoddy before removal.

In connection with the new Housing Site at Lumb Lane, Littlemoss, a further sewage disposal unit was constructed, comprising twin sewage tanks with chain pumps fitted, a

dosing chamber, a filter bed with rotary distributor, fed by dosing syphon, twin humus tanks, effluent drain, irrigation channels and sludge washouts. This unit was brought into use in the latter part of the year and is working satisfactorily.

Samples of effluent have been taken by the Mersey and Irwell Committee inspectors at intervals during the year.

At the Sewage Disposal Works serving the Parish of Waterloo, extensive investigations were made during the summer to locate leakages from effluent channels and drains. Several such leaks were found by excavation, and made good. A new tank effluent drain has been laid from the main sedimentation tanks for the Waterloo Works to the feed channel leading to the tanks of the Newmarket unit and by means of this new drain it is now possible to run the supernatant liquor from the Waterloo tanks to the feed channel leading to the Newmarket tanks, thereby giving treatment through the latter unit in equal degree to that afforded to incoming sewage.

Also at the Waterloo Works one of the 60-ft. rotary distributors was repaired during the year and two rectangular auxilliary filter beds were completely emptied and cleaned out and the beds reconstructed, new media being added as required to replace that which had disintegrated.

At the Newmarket Works the two rotary distributors were repaired, the dosing syphon fitted with new air pipes and the dosing chamber pointed up in a number of places where leakages were taking place. The brickwork of the settling tanks of the Newmarket unit was also pointed up where required, and a defective length of 6-inch washout drain was taken up and relaid with watertight joints, on a new alignment.

Considerable quantities of sludge were removed from lagoons at both Bardsley and Waterloo Works, and pipes, penstocks, valves, distributors, etc. at each of the Disposal Works were again painted with anti-rust solution.

In July, the Manchester and District Joint Town Planning Advisory Committee sent out a circular to all Local Authorities within the Area covered by that Committee, asking for particulars as to the present methods of sewage disposal in operation, and of the capacity of existing works.

The following figures are taken from the reply furnished to the Committee:—

Population draining to each Disposal Works—
(Estimated on the basis of 3·21 persons per house)
Bardsley, 1,646. Waterloo, 3,745. Newmarket, 238.

Daily dry weather flow to each—
(Estimated on the basis of 30 gallons per head per day).

	Gallons
Bardsley Works—49,410 plus 3,000 from pithead baths	52,410
Waterloo Works—including 19 houses in Bardsley...	112,350
Newmarket Works	7,140

No special charge is made for treating trade waste from the Pithead Baths at Bardsley nor from an Oil Recovery Works at Waterloo.

19 houses at Highfield Terrace and Ronnis Mount in Bardsley are drained to the Waterloo Sewers—representing an estimated population of 61 on the basis of 3·21 persons per house—these offsetting 19 houses in Waterloo of which 16 drain to the Ashton Corporation Sewers and three houses to watercourses.

In computing the figures for Bardsley allowance has been made for 38 houses, not sewered, with an estimated population of 122, and for 19 houses above-mentioned with an estimated population of 61, which drain to Waterloo.

The present population served by the new unit at Littlemoss is 70.

During the year new sewage units were constructed to serve a milk producing farm at Bardsley, a large piggery at Littlemoss and a pig farm at Woodhouses.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION AND DRAINAGE.

Under the heading “Closet Conversions, etc.,” a tabulated Statement gives the totals of the various sanitary conveniences in the five parishes which remained in the District at December 31st, 1938. From this table it will be seen that the number of pail closets is 8 in the parish of Waterloo and 29 in the parish of Bardsley.

In the carrying out of conversions every opportunity is taken to get the number of conveniences increased where such is desirable, and in many cases at houses where there are now separate closets, the occupants formerly were obliged to use conveniences in common with the people at one or more neighbouring houses.

The repair, or the relaying, of existing house drainage, together with the provision of inspection chambers and ventilating shafts, which usually occurs in carrying out conversions to W.C.'s, constitute additional and very desirable improvements, but such also call for extensive supervision, inspection and testing by the Sanitary Inspector's Dept.

Old drainage systems have usually been found to be without any ventilation, and without any proper means of access for inspection and cleansing. Existing pipes too large for the work they have to deal with, and not laid to suitable gradients nor with watertight joints have frequently been found.

Particulars of the improvements effected this year are set out in the Sanitary Inspector's Report under the heading of "Closet Conversions, etc."

HOUSE SCAVENGING.

The collection of house refuse and nightsoil is carried out by the Council's workmen in the parishes of Waterloo, Bardsley, Littlemoss, and Woodhouses. The Council motor lorries and nightsoil carts are employed for this purpose, and hired horses and carts are also engaged as required.

In the Park Bridge section of Alt parish a weekly collection from closet pails and ashbins, etc., is made by the firm of H. Lees & Sons Ltd. who own practically the whole of the property.

Garden refuse, old bedding, etc., was removed from several premises during the year at the request of the occupiers, who bore the cost of the same.

SCHOOLS.

There are eight Elementary Schools in the district, one of modern construction, the others of early construction, and the water supplies for these are now all derived from the public mains.

Bottled milk is supplied to the children at all the schools except the small Church school at Park Bridge, Alt, a total average quantity of 500 bottles per day being consumed.

The milk at the Bardsley, Waterloo, Littlemoss and Woodhouses schools is all pasteurized, and at the Knolls Lane school untreated milk is provided.

The closet accommodation at the schools in Bardsley and Waterloo is all on the water carriage system. The pail closets at the two schools in Woodhouses and at the Littlemoss school are emptied by the Council workmen and the pail closets at the Alt schools are emptied under arrangements made by the School Managers.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

No action is being taken by the Council, but the Lancashire County Council have made arrangements for examinations to be made free of charge at Ashton-under-Lyne Infirmary.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The Lancashire County Council has a Tuberculosis Dispensary at Lees Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, and cases from your District receive attention there.

Notification of Tuberculosis by medical men practising in the District is efficient and following the publication of the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations of 1930, they were all circularized as to the requirements of these new Regulations. There have been no cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

The Tuberculosis Officer, Dr. George Fletcher, (at Ashton-under-Lyne) arranges for visits to the houses by a Health Visitor who reports upon the conditions at each of the premises where affected persons live, and upon special

defects as to windows, damp walls, floors, or ceilings. Upon receipt of these reports, steps are taken to have these defects remedied. Nourishment in the form of milk, etc., is supplied in suitable cases.

Houses are disinfected after cases of Phthisis where this is deemed advisable.

SCHOOL CLINICS.

There are no school clinics in the district. Under the County Council Scheme children must apply for treatment to Royton or Droylsden.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

A welfare centre administered by the County Council at the Methodist School, Oldham Road, Waterloo, is held fortnightly, where mothers may take their infants and obtain advice, also special treatment for the babies where required. Fresh milk is supplied free in necessitous cases, and also proprietary foods at reduced charges.

DISTRICT NURSES.

The District Nurses of the Ashton-under-Lyne District Association visit the District.

MIDWIVES ACT 1936.

PROVISION OF A DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY SERVICE IN THE DISTRICT.

*The same midwives served the district in 1938 as in 1937;
none were resident in the district.*

The County Council have now decided to allocate a salaried midwife specifically to the Limehurst Rural District.

Mrs. A. Harrop, S.C.M., S.R.N., has been appointed and will commence duty on 1st February, 1939. Her present address is 111, Stamford Square, Ashton-under-Lyne, but as soon as possible she will take up residence in the Rural District.

POWERS OBTAINED BY VARIOUS ACTS.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

The following sections of the Public Health Act, 1936, (which apply to certain rural districts only) are operative in the Rural District of Limehurst :—

Section 46 (Sanitary conveniences in factories, workshops and workplaces).

Section 107 (Restriction on establishment of offensive trade).

Section 108 (Byelaws as to certain trades).

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS AMENDMENT ACT, 1907.

Sections 15 to 18 except in so far as Sections 15 and 16 relate to buildings. (Section 15 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 (Deposit of plan to be of no effect after certain intervals) came into operation in the Rural District of Limehurst on the 20th March, 1911).

Sections 20 to 22.

Sections 28 to 33 except for the words “or in any bye-laws to be made under any enactment extended by this Part” contained in Section 33, and subject to certain reservations with regard to Section 30 as set out in the Order dated January, 1911.

Sections 53 and 54.

Sections 94 and so much of Section 95 as is not repealed by Section 163 of the Local Government Act, 1933, in force in the parishes of Bardsley and Woodhouses.

All these Sections in force as from the 20th March, 1911.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS AMENDMENT ACT, 1890.

Part IV. of this Act in force (relating to Music and Dancing) by Order, as from the 25th October, 1937.

PUBLIC HEALTH (BUILDINGS IN STREETS) ACT, 1888.

Section 3 as from the 13th September, 1911.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1875.

Sections 154, 155, and 157, except in Section 157 the paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 which are repealed, and the words "or to construct buildings," the words from "provided that no byelaw" to "subject to this enactment" and the words "of this section and" are also repealed. Date of Order, September, 13th, 1911.

NOTE :—The functions of Section 154 were transferred to County Councils by the Local Government Act, 1929. Section 157 was applied to all Rural Districts by the Rural District Councils (Urban Powers) Order of 1931.

Section 160 except paragraph 3 (with respect to ruinous or dangerous buildings) which is repealed except in so far as the enactments incorporated thereby relate to buildings, walls, or other things which are dangerous to passengers. Date of Order, September 13th, 1911.

BYE-LAWS IN FORCE.

New Streets and Buildings, as from 19th August, 1926.

Drainage of Existing Buildings, as from 21st January, 1927.

Slaughterhouses, as from 18th June, 1926.

Advertisements (Lancs C.C.) in parish of Littlemoss.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 68 of the Public Health Act, 1936, work is in hand on the revision of Byelaws for Buildings, with a view to adoption before August, 1939.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING.

After a number of years associated with the Manchester and District Regional Planning Advisory Committee, the R.D.C. passed the Town-Planning resolution on the 9th November, 1933, and joined the Oldham and District Statutory Regional Planning Committee as a constituent authority.

The Council have two representatives with voting power on the Committee and meetings are held at the Town Hall, Oldham, once in every two months, the Clerk and the Surveyor of the Council also being entitled to attend but without power to vote.

During 1935 the Council exercised their powers to zone two residential areas, and also provisionally approved road proposals for that part of the Rural District extending from Taunton Road and Newmarket Road, Waterloo, in a westerly direction to the boundary of the Droylsden U.D.

Plans were provisionally approved in September, 1937, for proposed new road, 60 ft. in width, from the Droylsden U.D. boundary through the Parish of Littlemoss to join up with Newmarket Road, and providing for the future widening to 60 ft. of that part of Newmarket Road, and of Wilshaw Lane to the Ashton-under-Lyne Borough boundary at Wilshaw Railway Bridge.

Also for another proposed road, 60 ft. in width, from the Oldham County Borough boundary at Hollinwood to the Ashton Borough boundary, leading to Richmond Street, comprising two entirely new end sections and one new centre section and incorporating between these sections two lengths of existing road at Cutler Hill and Daisy Nook. The total width through Daisy Nook to be reduced to 30 ft. carriage-way, and a detached footpath 15 ft. in width, with a foot-bridge across the River Medlock alongside the existing reinforced concrete bridge.

Since the Interim Development Order became operative, all proposals for development require to be considered in the light of the new powers and duties devolving on the Council, and until such time as the District has been completely planned and all necessary maps have been prepared such proposals as are submitted by private developers must inevitably add to the work and responsibility of your officials. The defining of improvement lines on highways in order to fix building set-back is a common instance, often requiring special survey work, also correspondence with the Regional Planning Office, and with the County Council as the Highway Authority in the Rural District.

BUILDING BYE-LAWS.

Plans submitted for Approval.

The following plans were submitted to the Council during the twelve months for approval :—

Lock-up Shops... ..	1
New houses (for 1 dwelling)	1
Branch Library.....	1
Alterations to Shops	1
Back door Shelters.....	2
Dressing Rooms	2
Dairies.....	2
Cowshed and Stable.....	1
New W.C's., Drainage, etc.....	3
Garages (one converted from a Dairy).....	24
Greenhouses (one an extension)	3
Storesheds	3
Miscellaneous	9
	53
	—

Three garages, and the lock-up shop were approved subject to agreements.

The cowshed and stable proposal was not proceeded with.

Plans were also received from Statutory Undertakings as follows :—

Electric cables	2
Electric poles.....	1
Water main extension	1

R.D.C. plans were also submitted and approved for the following :—

Road Improvements	1
House Plans ($\frac{1}{2}$ " detail)	1
Slum Clearance Areas	2

Particulars of the following 77 buildings were also submitted without plans :—

Outkitchens	3	Greenhouses	19
Garage (substitution).....	1	Cycle sheds.....	6
Hencotes	10	Storesheds	3
Porches	3	Toolsheds & Garden sheds	18
Coalhouses	4	Miscellaneous.....	10

The majority of these 77 buildings are wooden structures and small in size.

The outkitchen proposals were not approved.

One wooden building erected without notice was not approved and was subsequently taken down.

The erection of various types of small buildings occasionally takes place before any notices or plans have been sent in to the Council and there have been several such cases during the year.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

1.—Notices Served—Nuisance and Sanitary Defects.

No. of Informal Notices served during 1938 (concerning 140 houses)	112
No. of same complied with during 1938 (concerning 127 houses)	102

9 Informal Notices concerning 12 houses (served in 1937) were complied with in 1938.

NOTE.—A number of Notices in the form of letters were delivered in addition to the above.

No. of Statutory Notices served (for 4 premises).....	4
„ „ „ „ complied with	4
„ Legal Proceedings authorised	Nil
„ „ „ „ taken	Nil

One of the Statutory Notices was served for a nuisance, and three for insufficient ashes accommodation.

2.—Infectious Diseases and Disinfection.

Total number of notifiable diseases recorded during the year	80
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Tabulated statements of same are given on pages 7, 8, and 9.

Number of premises disinfected (houses)	58
„ „ „ „ disinfested (for vermin)	8

29 Diphtheria cases and 8 Scarlet Fever cases were accommodated at the following Infectious Diseases Hospitals: Oldham, 13; Manchester, 6; Hyde, 3; Ashton-under-Lyne, 5; Salford, 7; Rochdale, 2, and Stockport, 1. Also one patient was sent into Manchester Hospital for observation as a suspected Diphtheria. Varying amounts were paid by parents towards cost of maintenance and treatment in hospital.

The stock of diphtheria anti-toxin is checked periodically and renewed as required, care being taken not to allow it to get out-of-date.

The liquid disinfectants issued at the Council Offices are in diluted strength and present a milky-white appearance. Care is taken, therefore, to attach a bright red poison label to each bottle, as the types of bottles handed in are very varied and occasionally stoppered milk bottles are brought.

3.—Refuse Collection and Disposal.

In addition to the report under the heading "House Scavenging," note may be made of the decision of the Council in January, 1927, to remove the ashes and refuse from the Schools, Sunday Schools, Chapels, etc., free of charge as and when required, and trade refuse from shops and business premises only at the written request of the proprietors, and which requests embodied undertakings to pay costs incurred. In the cases of business people preferring to remove their own refuse it was further decided to grant them the free use of the Council's refuse tip for the disposal of their refuse in the particular parish in which their premises may be situate but on the understanding that all refuse of a combustible nature should be burnt thoroughly and the embers of the fire extinguished before leaving the refuse tip. Any refuse of an odorous character to be effectively buried below the surface of the refuse tip.

In April, 1934, the Council resolved to move, free of any special charge, the refuse from any business premises up to a quantity not exceeding one full bin of ordinary size per week in the four parishes rated for refuse collection and disposal, and since that came into force there has been no such refuse moved that could be charged for.

No new ashpits have been provided in the District for a number of years and galvanized portable bins are provided at all new houses. The number of existing dry ashpits is also being steadily reduced in the District a further 5 being abolished this year.

Cover sheets are used on the refuse collection vehicles.

At the Bardsley Refuse Tip a wire netting screen, 184 ft. long by 10-feet high was erected to trap paper and other light refuse liable to be blown away.

In June, the refuse tip at Waterloo took fire and work on extinguishing same took three or four days.

An estimate for scavenging part of the Parish of Alt was prepared in September. The matter was still under consideration at the end of the year.

The septic tank and filter bed serving 10 new houses and bungalow at Pitses were emptied, cleaned out and filter rebuilt in May. The three septic tanks serving 24 new houses at Woodhouses, 48 new houses at Littlemoss, and Buckley Hill Farm and cottages, Littlemoss, respectively, were all emptied in the month of January and again in October.

Weekly collections are made from bins in the parishes of Bardsley and Waterloo, and fortnightly collections in the parishes of Littlemoss and Woodhouses.

Prompt action is taken with the owners of premises to get ashbins and closet pails renewed which are found to be defective, and your workmen dust all nightsoil pails with disinfectant powder each time they are emptied.

The special galvanized nightsoil tank purchased in 1934 has been used in the emptying of cesspools, septic tanks and closet pails—the tank being carried on one of the motor lorries. Its value has been demonstrated in removals from the sewage disposal tanks provided in connection with groups of new houses in the parishes of Littlemoss and Woodhouses, and in both time and cost it represents a decided gain over the old method of emptying such large tanks with a horse drawn tumbler cart.

The gradual elimination of privy midden and cesspit closets which has taken place over the past 15 years, together with the prompt removal of nightsoil manure by the dealers who purchase same, has undoubtedly reduced the number of rats on Council premises to a considerable extent. Refuse tip fires which occasionally break out also have a rat-repelling effect, although objectionable in other respects, and a constant campaign with traps and baits keeps your premises from being overrun.

In the parish of Woodhouses an intermediate collection from nightsoil pails was inaugurated during the summer of 1931, following representations from the Parish Council, and several additional premises have been put on the weekly round this year. The need was originally confined to relatively few dwellings but every year more and more occupiers have asked to be included. The only alternative appears to be in the provision of larger pails than those of the size specified in the Bye-laws, and this the Council has no power to enforce. To give increased service without increasing the cost is a problem not always apparent to the ratepayer.

There is now a total of 1,912 ashbins, besides 14 other portable refuse receptacles, to be handled in the four parishes rated for house scavenging, as compared with 171 bins in use in the year 1922.

Bedding was removed from several premises and destroyed during the year, the owners paying the costs.

4.—Closet Conversions, Drainage, etc.

Privy Midden closets converted to fresh water closets	...	0
Privy Cesspit closets	„ „ „ „	0
Waste-water closets	„ „ „ „	1
Pail closets	„ „ „ „	0
Entirely new additional W.C.'s	.....	45
Year's total of new W.C.'s		<u>46</u>

Privy Midden closets converted to pail closets	.....	0
Privy Cesspit closets	„ „ „	0
New additional pail closets built	.....	0
Year's total of new pail closets		<u>0</u>

Number of galvanized ashbins substituted for middens	...	0
„ „ „ „	for ashpits	6
„ „ „ „	ground ashpits	0
„ „ „ „	tubs and boxes	1
„ „ „ „	being renewals	61
„ „ „ „	„ additional	36
Year's total of new ashbins		<u>104</u>

Pail Closets abolished.....	3
Midden ashpits abolished	0
Closet cesspits abolished	0
Dry ashpits and ground pits abolished	5
New closet pails provided, including renewals and conversions	23
Existing closet buildings reconstructed or repaired	4
New inspection chambers built on drains	36
New cast-iron vent shafts fixed	23
Premises where drains were entirely reconstructed	9
Premises (other than the above) where new branch drains were laid	6
Premises (other than the above) where existing drains were repaired	2
Drain blockages cleared	30
W.W.C. tipplers repaired	1
New baths (including those in new houses)	32
New lavatory bowls (including those in new houses)	39
New sinks (including those in new houses)	39

For new houses, fresh water closets are installed where sewers or other satisfactory drainage for the same exist, or where the latter can be provided. The closet accommodation for 1,897 houses is on the water-carriage system.

TABULATED RECORD OF SANITARY ACCOMMODATION AT END OF 1938.

PARISH	Water Closets	Waste Water Closets	Pail Closets	Galv'd Bins	Middens	Closets	Cesspits	Closets	Ashpits	Tubs, Boxes, etc.
Alt	66	22	204	65	11	19	12	13	45	1
Bardsley	358	206	29	448	11	16	4	7	31	4
Littlemoss	120	10	127	182	3	4	4	5	11	0
Waterloo	1038	270	8	1058	1	2	—	—	86	6
Woodhouses	29	1	234	224	1	1	1	1	0	4
Totals	1611	509	602	1977	27	42	21	26	173	15

The number of closet conversions this year is again less than that in recent years. This is accounted for partly by the fact that the number remaining to be done has greatly diminished in those parishes where conversion is desirable.

Of the remaining midden and cesspit closets, eighteen will be dealt with in slum clearance schemes.

For a number of years now a standard of work has been set in this District which is designed to give your Council and the people you represent good workmanship and real sanitary conditions without creating any hardship on the property owners. Each job carried out by the owners, whether voluntarily or as a result of requirements of the Council, is properly supervised and examined and the relatively few occasions on which work has to be done over again by local contractors and builders in these days may be said to be the natural result of stands taken in the past to secure proper jobs being done.

5.—Water.

The major portion of the parish of Bardsley and parts of the parish of Alt are supplied from a main which comes direct from the Yeoman Hey filter house, whereas the parishes of Waterloo, Littlemoss and Woodhouses (with the exception of three houses in the two latter parishes) are supplied by a main direct from the open Knott Hill service reservoir. An ionisation purification plant has been installed at Knott Hill and is now in use. The supply from Knott Hill is now above suspicion.

There has been no shortage of water during the year. The district is fortunate in having supplies from the public mains available throughout the greater part of the area and only the more scattered premises in the parish of Alt, a few premises in Bardsley and two in Littlemoss, are without the town's water and have to rely on wells and springs.

The two houses at Holts in Alt Parish, referred to in the Report last year, have now been provided with a piped water supply from the mains of the Oldham Corporation. This is in lieu of a very unsatisfactory supply derived from a private reservoir.

A new water service has been installed at Manor House Farm, Knott Lanes, Bardsley, following informal action taken in consequence of a very poor pressure of water.

Several extensions of existing mains have been made in the district during the year, to serve groups of new houses.

Approximately 98·05% of the houses and population are on town's water, 0·28% on supplies piped privately from springs into premises, and the remaining 1·67% are supplied by wells.

All new dwellings erected since the war, have direct supplies from the public mains.

6.—Slaughterhouses, Meat and Food Inspection.

No Public Slaughterhouse has been provided.

There are no licensed slaughterhouses in the District.

Following is a list of registered slaughterhouses :

No.	ADDRESS	OCCUPIER	Approx. date of Opening
1	Oldham Road, Bardsley...	H. Shaw	1892
2	Wilshaw Lane, Waterloo	J. Woolley	1902
3	Store Street, Waterloo ...	Waterloo Co-op. Soc.	1915
4	Langham St., Waterloo ...	W. Potts	1918

Record of Carcases Inspected and Condemnations.

	Cattle (exclud- ing Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	253	105	8	2,256	101
Number inspected ...	203	84	5	756	101
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.					
Whole carcasses con- demned	—	—	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	7	12	—	2	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	3·45	14·3	—	0·26	1·0
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcasses con- demned	1	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	6	15	—	—	8
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	3·45	17·8	—	—	7·92

294 visits have been made to slaughterhouses during the year, many visits have had to be made on Sundays. Regular inspections are made at shops in the District, and places where food is prepared.

29 special notices of slaughter and 2 special notices of disease were received, and were given prompt attention.

No meat marking scheme is in force.

There are no shell-fish layings in the District and very little shell-fish is sold. The layings from which shell-fish sold in the District are derived are not known.

There have been no prosecutions for unfit food during the year.

Attention has been given to the use by the local butchers of mechanically-operated humane killers in accordance with the Act which came into force on the first day of January, 1934, a number of special visits being made to slaughter-houses for this purpose. The Council's decision, by Resolution, to apply the requirement to the slaughter of sheep and lambs does not now meet with serious criticism.

Arrangements were made and terms agreed upon with the Ashton-under-Lyne Corporation in 1932 for the destruction of unsound meat at their refuse destructor as and when necessary, and advantage has been taken of this during the year under review.

7.—Dairies, Cowshed, and Milkshops.

There are 64 dairy farms in the District in the occupation of 61 cowkeepers all of whom are on the Register. The total number of cows kept is 1,093 approx.

In addition to the 61 cowkeepers who are also dairymen with registered dairy premises, there are five resident dairymen and retail purveyors with registered premises who are not cowkeepers, but buy their milk in bulk and then retail it from churns.

Finally, there are 54 firms and persons registered as dairymen and retail purveyors who have no dairy premises in the Limehurst District. Five of these are farmers and dairymen from other districts, four are Co-operative Societies operating from adjoining districts, eight are Dairy Companies bringing in bottled milk to sell to shopkeepers and other customers and the remainder are people with provision shops, and similar trade premises, who sell bottled milk only and exactly as received from the suppliers.

Attention has again been paid during the year to the matter of retailing milk at various types of provision shops. It appears that most of the shopkeepers only began selling milk for fear of losing other custom to the shopkeepers who had bottled milk. No particular care was taken in the method of storing or exhibiting the bottled milk therefore, to protect it from dust and flies, nor in the manner of keeping empties and, in the circumstances, such was scarcely to be expected. Following a special report on the subject in 1931 the Council resolved to require all such retailers to keep their full bottles in a suitable case with close-fitting cover and their empties in a similar but separate box, and in case of non-compliance to withdraw or refuse registration.

The protection afforded by the adoption of these precautions is especially valuable in the case of the wide-neck bottle with press-in disc, of which type many are sold, particularly from the dairies of local farmers and producers.

Fees for the sale of pasteurized milk in the District have been paid by six Dairy firms this year, and for "Tuberculin Tested" milk by one firm.

Farm dairies and utensils, as a rule are found clean and generally satisfactory, and the growing practice amongst the farmers in installing boilers, sterilizing plants, refrigerators, and bottling plants tends to promote competition and a higher standard of cleanliness.

For the most part the water supply at farms is both plentiful and satisfactory in quality.

A large quantity of milk is retailed outside the District in the adjoining boroughs and Urban districts.

Improvements and additional facilities have been recorded at the following farms during the year :—

Meadowcroft Farm, Woodhouses. The existing cowsheds were abolished. A barn in good structural condition was converted into an 11 cow shippon, with steel tubular stalls, new concrete floors, new windows, and the ceiling underdrawn. Walls were rendered in cement and new entry doors provided to make a shippon on modern lines. An entirely new brick three compartment dairy was erected.

Lower Crowhill Farm, Littlemoss. Existing barn in good condition converted into a modern shippon. New wooden boskins, new concrete floor, new windows, new ceiling and walls rendered in cement. Suitable accommodation for 10 cows provided. Last year two shippons were reconstructed at this farm.

Taunton Hall Farm, Waterloo. An existing barn in satisfactory structural condition was converted into a modern shippon housing 16 cows. New steel tubular stalls, new concrete floor, new windows, new ceiling and walls rendered in cement. The drainage of the farm was reconstructed and modernised.

Bardsley Fold Farm, Bardsley. The two existing cowsheds were improved by the reconstruction of the floors in concrete, new wooden boskins, additional light and ventilation and the rendering of the walls in cement. The two cowsheds accommodate 10 cows. The existing dairy has been reconstructed; new concrete floor, new roof light, improved ventilation, new sink and the rendering of the walls.

New Bank Farm, Woodhouses. Work has proceeded at intervals during the year on the erection of a new 28 cow shippon and 4 compartment dairy. This work was not completed at the end of the year.

Buckley Hill Farm, Littlemoss. The large shippon (16 cows) at this farm has been reconstructed. New concrete floors and new steel tubular stalls being installed. Work on the modernising of the dairy was put in hand. Previous improvements recorded in the Report for 1936.

Hill Farm, Bardsley. An entirely new farm house was built for the farmer. At the same time a modern divided dairy was constructed. The drainage for the whole of the farm buildings, cowsheds, dairy and farmhouse was reconstructed and the new sewage unit constructed at the same time, deals with the sewage before discharge to the brook. The Report for 1937 sets out the improvements previously carried out at this farm.

Limehurst Farm, Waterloo. The milking passages and "grips" for all cow stalls in the shippon have been relaid in concrete.

Bank Top Farm, Bardsley. The floor of an 8 cow shippon has been reconstructed in concrete. The arrangement of the floor with regard to standings, "grip" and milking passage was in accordance with modern practice.

The following dairymen and cowkeepers in the Limehurst Rural District are licenced by the Lancashire County Council as producers of "Accredited" milk :—

Nos. 1, 4 and 5 are also licenced for bottling.

1. H. Baron, Woodpark, Bardsley.
2. A. Brooks, Limehurst Farm, Waterloo.
3. T. Ollerenshaw, Old Hall Farm, Waterloo.
4. G. Walker, Jaum Farm, Littlemoss.
5. J. Hadfield (Sen.), Alt Fold Farm, Parkbridge, Alt.

The division of dairy accommodation into three sections comprising first a boiler house, then a place for washing and sterilising plant, and finally a store for the milk, refrigerator chest and cleansed utensils, is invariably advised and generally adopted at the premises where the dairy provision is being improved or enlarged. The extension of overhead supplies of electricity to scattered farms has proved a big incentive to the installation by farmers of motors for various types of dairy machinery, as well as the electric lighting of both dairies and cowsheds.

The improvement in the cleanliness and grooming of the cows has been maintained at the premises visited this year.

At the same time it would be preferable if a series of samples were taken annually for examination for the Methylene Blue test and for B. Coli. The results of such examinations would form the best evidence on which to judge of the cleanliness of the milk produced in the District and would also be of use in any action taken to improve conditions of handling and storage where such may be found to be necessary.

The transfer of the duty of Veterinary Inspection of cattle from the Local Authorities to the Central Authority took place this year.

As from 1st April, 1938, the Veterinary Inspection in this district came under the control of the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, as provided for in Part IV (Diseases of Animals) of the Agricultural Act, 1937. The Tuberculosis Order of 1938 came into operation to replace the Tuberculosis Order of 1925.

The procedure now is as follows: — Where a Medical Officer of a district (not being a County or a County Borough) has reason to suspect that tuberculosis is being caused or is likely to be caused by the consumption of certain milk, he shall give notice to the Medical Officer of Health of the County or County Borough in which the cows are kept. The latter Medical Officer, not now having a Veterinary Inspector at his disposal, will communicate this information to the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, who will arrange a veterinary inspection of the cattle concerned, and inform the County or County Borough Medical Officer of the result in due course.

The following particulars relate to such work carried out in your District this year.

21st July, tubercle bacilli found in sample of milk from a farm at Alt. Three animals later dealt with under Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

2nd August, tubercle bacilli found in sample of milk from a farm at Littlemoss. It was ascertained that a cow which left this farm after the sample of milk was taken was totally condemned after slaughter. Biological examination of a sample of milk from the rest of the herd was negative.

5th August, tubercle bacilli found in sample of milk from a farm at Waterloo. One animal was dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order.

10th August, tubercle bacilli found in sample of milk from a farm at Woodhouses. One animal was dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order.

8th October, tubercle bacilli found in a sample of milk from a farm at Bardsley. One animal was dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order.

16th November, tubercle bacilli found in sample of milk from a farm at Woodhouses. One animal was dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order.

It is the intention of the Ministry to arrange that regular inspection of all herds in the country shall be commenced as early as possible.

Samples have been taken regularly throughout the year at Alt, Knolls Lane C. of E. School, and Waterloo Christ Church C. of E. School. In all, six samples were taken and all were certified free from tubercle bacilli

Samples have been taken at regular intervals during the year at the "Accredited" farms in the District at the instance of the Lancashire County Council. Altogether twenty samples were obtained and submitted for examination. One sample was unsatisfactory with regard to B. Coli content, but a follow up sample and subsequent samples proved satisfactory. In three instances tubercle bacilli was found in the milk. These were reported by the County Medical Officer of Health to the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and in every case the offending animals were found and dealt with.

8.—Bakehouses and Confectionery.

There are four bakehouses in use in the District at the present time; most bread consumed is brought in from adjoining boroughs in covered motor vans.

Most of the baking done in your District is in confectionery goods and there are eleven premises which have special sectional iron ovens erected.

At the remainder, the baking is done in ordinary ovens attached to the kitchen range, there being sixteen premises in all on which baking for sale is carried on.

9.—Smoke Observation.

There are 25 factory chimneys in the area administered by the District Council of which 14 are at the Park Bridge Ironworks. Three of the latter are not now used.

Smoke observations have been taken on 10 occasions during the year. In two instances notices have been sent to owners re unsatisfactory smoke emissions, and in one case it was arranged for a technical expert to advise the owner as to methods of preventing smoke. Considerable improvement was noted, particularly in this latter case.

In May, 1937, the Council decided by resolution that the time limit for black smoke emission should be two minutes in the half-hour.

It is obvious that the District suffers in regard to smoke-laden atmosphere by its geographical situation being immediately east of large industrial areas of other Authorities, the prevailing winds being from the west and south-west. The deposit in the fields on that side of the Rural District is not from chimneys in this area.

The deliberate firing of domestic chimneys in the District is, however, very prevalent, and much nuisance and annoyance is caused by this practice. The cloud of smoke has on occasion been observed to completely destroy visibility for a short distance on the main road through Waterloo, with resulting danger to people and vehicles on the road. Prosecution of offenders in a few authenticated instances would doubtless have a very salutary effect.

10.—Offensive Trades.

The following trades, businesses or manufactures are scheduled in the District: Blood-drier, Tanner, Leather-dresser, Fat-melter or Fat extractor, Glue maker, Size-maker, Gutscraper, Dealer in Rags and Bones, and Bone-burner.

The only such businesses carried on in the Rural District are two Dealers in Rags and Bones. There has been no cause for any action to be taken during the year.

An application for permission to establish a gut scraping works at Woodhouses was received, but after the technical difficulties had been explained the applicant withdrew his application.

11.—Housing.

The total number of houses in the District at the end of 1938 is 2513 mostly of the working-class type. The population of the District for 1938 is 7893.

Average number of inhabitants per house.....	3·14
Number of new dwellings brought into the Rate	
Books during the year	34

There are a few back-to-back houses in Bardsley and Woodhouses and a number of houses in Alt without back doors, though not back-to-back houses.

Repairs at existing houses during the year have been recorded in 196 instances and it is felt that a fair measure of progress is being made.

All new houses erected this year have freshwater closet accommodation, and water supplies direct from the public mains.

SLUM CLEARANCE.

Work has continued throughout the year on the slum clearance re-housing programme under the Housing Acts.

A Council Deputation visited the Ministry of Health on January 4th in connection with the tenders received for the proposed new houses, and discussed ways and means of effecting reductions to bring them down to figures which the Minister could approve.

Later in the month your Surveyor interviewed the Contractors whose original tenders had been the lowest for the respective sites and discussed what reductions could be achieved by changes in the specification.

The variations concerned, which included the substitution of wooden windows for steel windows, were formally approved by the Council on the 10th February, and the Contractors were then asked to submit revised tenders. Subsequently a schedule of the new tenders was submitted to the Minister of Health and approved, and work on the 15 houses at Lumb Lane, Littlemoss, and on the 14 houses at Knott Lanes, Bardsley, commenced simultaneously on the 4th May.

Meantime work on the main drainage required for the houses on these two sites had been started by separate contractors on the 28th March and the 21st April respectively.

In February a specification for the demolitions of old property on the two re-housing sites at Bardsley and Waterloo was prepared and approved, and tenders were invited. In June the Demolitions Contractor was requested as a matter of urgency, to take down the old works on the Ney Street—Blucher Street site.

Work proceeded on the new houses at Littlemoss and Bardsley and the 29 houses were completed, ready for occupation, by the end of the year. Tenants from condemned houses were re-housed towards the end of the year, the H.C.N. van method of removal being employed.

Work on the demolitions of old houses will be commenced as soon as the whole of the tenants have been re-housed.

During the year two new Clearance Areas were declared (Nos. 8 and 9), the Ministry's public enquiry was held in October and subsequently the Orders were confirmed. The houses in Nos. 2 and 5 Areas were demolished.

An individual house was dealt with informally as unfit for human habitation, and on the owner promising to demolish the house, the Council re-housed the tenant.

SCHEDULE OF AREAS DECLARED.

No. 1 Area.—Comprising the 10 houses Nos. 3–21, Ney Street, and the disused fruit-bottling works at Blucher Street, Waterloo.

No. 2 Area.—Comprising the four houses Nos. 30–36, Gordon Street, Waterloo, and the disused workshop adjoining No. 36. These were demolished in 1938.

No. 3 Area.—Comprising the 14 houses Nos. 524–532, Oldham Road, 1–9, Church Street, 3–4, Glazebrook Buildings, and 1–5, Wright Street, Bardsley.

- No. 4 Area.—Comprising the five houses 760–764, Oldham Road, and Nos. 1 & 3, Park Lane, Bardsley, and the derelict house adjoining No. 3, Park Lane.
- No. 5 Area.—Comprising block of three wooden bungalows near Waterhouses Canal Bridge, Littlemoss. These were demolished in 1938.
- No. 6 Area.—Comprising the two cottages at Fitton Hill, Bardsley, occupied by Mrs. Booth and Mr. C. Gamble.
- No. 7 Area.—Comprising the three houses Nos. 16, 18 and 20, Keb Lane, Bardsley.
- No. 8 Area.—Comprising the two dwelling houses Nos. 220 and 222, Lumb Lane, Littlemoss.
- No. 9 Area.—Comprising the four dwelling houses Nos. 24, 26, 28, 30, Daisy Nook, Waterhouses, Littlemoss.

1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

Number of Inspections.....	276
Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	12
Number of Inspections made for the purpose	25
Number of houses found unfit for human habitation	7
Number of houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	196

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or of their officers or voluntarily by owners.....	196
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A—Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :

Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
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Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
--	--

(a) By owners	Nil
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(b) By the Local Authority in default of owners.....	Nil
--	-----

B—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
--	-----

(2) Number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
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(a) By owners 1938	Nil
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(b) By the Local Authority	Nil
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C—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
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(2) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1
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D—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
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(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil
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OVERCROWDING.

The following table shows the position with regard to overcrowding and the changes that have taken place during the year.

HOUSING ACT 1936—PART IV—OVERCROWDING.

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.....	39
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein.....	40
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein.....	283
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.....	0
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.....	16
		Number of families	18
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	113

There have been no instances of houses again becoming overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for abatement.

ERADICATION OF BED-BUGS.

No. of houses found to be infested	(a)	Council houses	None
	(b)	Other houses...	Eight
No. of houses disinfested.....	(a)	Council houses	None
	(b)	Other houses...	Eight

In six of the above cases a proprietary insecticide was used, and in two instances spraying with carbolic acid was carried out.

In the majority of old houses it is impossible to use H.C.N. with safety in order to eradicate bugs, so recourse has to be had to safer, but much less effective methods.

The more drastic and thorough method of exposure to H.C.N. in closed vans is used to fumigate tenants furniture and effects prior to removal to Council Houses. All removals this year have been carried out in this manner, the work being done by a Contractor.

Prior to removal to a Council House each tenant is visited and advised, a précis of this advice is left with the tenant in the form of a typewritten sheet, and after removal the tenant is further supervised and educated where found necessary.

12.—Shops and Offices.

During the year a full survey was made of the 124 shops in the District, with particular reference to ventilation, sanitary conveniences and means of heating. 146 visits were made.

The ventilation, facilities for meals and sanitary conveniences for both sexes were brought up-to-date in a shop in Waterloo.

A report on each shop was forwarded to the County Council with regard to health and comfort of shop assistants, and the employment of young persons.

No action was taken under the Public Health Act, 1936 with regard to sanitary conditions in offices. It is not likely that such action will be required in this district.

13.—Storage of Petroleum, Petroleum Spirit, etc.

Licences are issued annually to a number of firms for the storage of petroleum and petroleum spirit, as per the following schedule, and the premises are subject to inspection under the Regulations made by the Home Secretary and as applied by the Petroleum (Consolidation) Act of 1928 :—

FIRM	ADDRESS	BUSINESS	Authorised Quantity to be stored
Albert Becch	Oldham Road, Bardsley	Petrol-filling Station	1500 glns.
Heginbotham Bros.	Oldham Road, Bardsley	Wheelwrights & Blacksmiths	5000 glns.
Waterloo Indus- trial Co-op. Soc.	Oldham Road, Waterloo	Provision and General Dealers	500 glns.
F. Andrew & Son	Atlas Garage, Waterloo	Hauliers	500 glns.
Mc.Connel & Co. Ltd.	Lumb Mills, Littlemoss	Cotton Spinners	1000 glns.
Stuart Bros.Ltd.	Stafford Works, Waterloo	Cloth Cleaners & Oil Recovery	500 glns.
Jno. & Abel Lees, Dobb, Ltd.	Keb Lane, Bardsley	Roller Turners, Etc.	100 glns.
T. Kerfoot & Co. Ltd.	Bardsley Vale	Manufacturing Chemists	500 glns.
J. J. Threlfall	Failsworth Rd, Woodhouses	Motor Engineer	500 glns.
F. Scholes	off Oldham Rd. Bardsley	Haulage Contractor	500 glns.
G. Davenport	255 Grove St. Waterloo	Garage Proprietor	500 glns.

One of the occupiers with a 500 gallon tank has not renewed his licence during the past year.

A new 500 gallon tank has been installed at the works of Messrs. T. Kerfoot and Co. Ltd. during the year.

14.—Canal Boats, Rag Flocks, Van Dwellings, etc.

There are no canal boats plying which are used as dwellings, no common lodging houses, no swimming baths, and no rag flock premises in the Limehurst District. There are no camping sites in the area, no licenses have been requested or granted, and there are very few van dwellings in the area.

W. DAWSON,

A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

Sanitary Inspector.

Administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901 and the Factories Act, 1937.

1. INSPECTIONS, for the purposes of provisions as to health. Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Prosecutions (4)
Factories (with mechanical power)	15	...	...
Factories (without mechanical power)	24	1	...
Other premises under the Act ... (including works of building and engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises) ..	—	...	...
Total	39	1	...

2. DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of Cleanliness (S. 1) .....	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding (S. 2).....	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	...	...	...	...
Inadequate Ventilation... (S. 4)	...	...	...	...
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) —				
insufficient .....	...	...	...	...
unsuitable or defective.....	1	1	...	...
not separate for sexes .....	...	...	...	...
Other offences	3	3	...	...
(Not including offences relating to home work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921. and re-enacted in the Third Schedule of the Factories Act, 1937)				
Total	4	4	...	..

No returns in OUTWORK Section.

The Factory and Workshop Act, 1901 was superseded by the
Factories Act 1937 on 1st July, 1938.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

The serious international situation that developed in the summer of 1938 caused a sharp increase in activity with regard to Air Raid Precautions. This imposed a heavy burden on all Councils and their Officers, both with respect to duties to be carried out by Local Authority's staffs and the recruitment and training of the personnel in the volunteer services.

In this District, Air Raid Wardens are recruited and trained by the County Constabulary, but the Council is responsible for all other services.

During the Crisis Week in September, emergency measures were taken to deal with possible eventualities, definite tasks were allotted to different people and certain buildings were earmarked or taken over for immediate use. Happily these emergency plans were never required to function and a more complete scheme was formulated, work on which has continued ever since.

The Old Brewery, Bardsley Vale, was taken over rent free as a general A.R.P. Depot, by kind permission of the owners Messrs. T. Kerfoot and Co. Ltd.

To the Health Department fell the task of organising the casualty services. A very fine response to the appeal for volunteers for First Aid was received and a good number of competent First Aid Instructors placed their services at disposal of the Council. In addition, two qualified Anti-gas Instructors were available, so it was possible to arrange for the training of volunteers by people living in the district. At the end of the year this work was progressing well and a very enthusiastic band of First Aid workers was in training.

The Council workmen were given a course in First Aid, Anti-gas and the wearing of protective clothing.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Owing to the passing of the Fire Brigades Act, 1938, it became necessary for the Council to make fresh arrangements in the district for fire services, the functions previously vesting in the Parish Councils now being transferred direct to the Rural District Council. The matter was somewhat complicated owing to the District Council having to approach neighbouring Boroughs for terms, and also because of the fact that it was ascertained that the question of ambulance service was largely bound up with that of the fire protection service. Subject to costs of the service being comparatively equal, as between the offers of the County Borough of Oldham and the Borough of Ashton-under-Lyne, the Parishes concerned intimated that they preferred to be served by the nearer Authority. Negotiations were still proceeding at the end of the year.

The Parishes of Alt, Bardsley and Littlemoss have taken advantage of the facilities afforded by the Lancashire County Council Libraries Scheme and each parish has a centre under the supervision of an Honorary Librarian.

On April 1st, 1937 by agreement between the Lancashire County Council and Waterloo Parish Council, the Township of Waterloo became part of the County Library area.

Plans for a New Branch Library, to be erected by the County Council in Waterloo, were deposited in December, 1938, and it is anticipated that this new building will be opened for use by the public during the coming year. Meantime the temporary centre at Waterloo Council School continues to function.

The recommendation of the County Medical Officer of Health with regard to the destruction or disinfection of library books from houses where infectious diseases occur is carried out in every case.

The growth of the supply of electric current has continued throughout the District with consequent advantages to residents for both domestic and industrial purposes.

During 1938 Ministry of Transport pattern signs, have been provided as follows:—

Two “Dangerous Bend” signs on Alt Hill Lane and three signs on the approaches to Waterhouses Brow and Canal Bridge.

The new Pithead Baths at Woodpark Colliery, Bardsley, were erected during the year and were formally opened early in December.

Further new sections of footpath have been constructed on various public highways, to a total length of a quarter of a mile.

On the question of the making-up of Private Streets in the Parishes of Bardsley and Waterloo, it is satisfactory to note that a definite start on this work has been made this year and there is every prospect of a number of streets being dealt with during the coming year.

The public lighting of Taunton Road, Waterloo, has been generally improved, three new street lamps being provided. Additional street lamps have been provided, one at Ney Street and one at Wellington Street West, Waterloo.

1938 STATISTICS.

Area (acres) at 31/12/38	3688
Estimated Population	7893
Birth Rate	10·3
Adjusted Death Rate (comparability factor 1·09)	12·7
Death Rate (Respiratory Tuberculosis).....	0·50
Infantile Mortality	134
Number of Dwelling-houses	2513

I wish to thank the Surveyor, Mr. R. Thompson, M.INST. M.&CY.E., M.R.S.I., for the information given under the headings "Sewers and Sewage Disposal," "House Scavenging," "Town and Country Planning," "Refuse Collection and Disposal," and the data with regard to re-housing proposals.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health
Sanitary Inspector

I am, Gentlemen, Your obedient servant,

G. F. BOWMAN, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., J.P.,

Medical Officer of Health.

